

Remarks

Claims 1-19 were pending. Claims 2, 6, and 8 have been amended while claims 1, 7, and 11-19 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added. Applicant indicates his appreciation for the indication of allowable subject and respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

Restrictions

The claims have been restricted into group I containing claims 1-10 and group II including claims 11-19. Applicant had previously elected group I. Group II claims 11-19 have now been cancelled such that the restriction is now moot.

103 Rejections

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over O'Neill (US Pat. 5,360,288) in view of McCartney (US Pat. 4,530,620). Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over O'Neill (US Pat. 5,360,288) in view of McCartney (US Pat. 4,530,620) and further in view of Vicars (US Pat 6,796,762). In view of the amendments above, these rejections are now moot.

Without conceding to the correctness of these rejections, Applicant has elected to amend the claims so that those claims indicated as having allowable subject matter, namely claims 2 and 8, have now been written in independent form to include all limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 2. Remaining dependent claims 3-5, 9, and 10 depend from an allowable base claim and are also allowable for the same reasons.

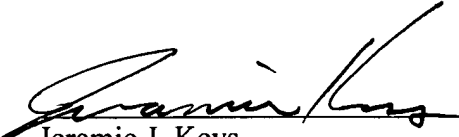
Conclusion

Applicant asserts that the application including claims 2-6 and 8-10 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that the Notice of Allowance be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

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